Decrease in the Level of underground water

†595. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the level of underground water in most parts of the country is going down rapidly;

(b) if so, the parts of the country where this problem has become serious; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve the level of underground water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a situation of fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the country. The names of the States/districts showing pockets where fall in ground water level for more than 4 meters (1980—1999) has been observed are indicated in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The steps taken by the Union Government to increase the ground water level in the country include:

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories, to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iii) Circulation of Manual on artifical recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artifical recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies in artifical recharge of ground water in some over exploited and 'Dark' blocks of the country.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Name of the State/District showing Pockets with Fall in Ground Water Level of more than 4 meters (1980—99)

Sl. No.	State	Districts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Shrikakulam, Chittoor.
2.	Maharashtra	Akola, Nagpur, Jalgaon, Osmanabad, Satara, Aurangabad, Sangli, Buldhana, Amravati.
3.	Punjab	Amritsar, Jallandhar, Ferozpur, Ludhiana, Patiala, Sangrur, Faridkot, Fatehgarh.
4.	Haryana	Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Mehandargarh, Jind.
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda, Farukhabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Fetehpur, Allahabad, Banda, Nainital.
6.	Bihar	East Singhbhum, Ranchi, Samastipur, Chapra, Darbhanga.
7.	West Bengal	Purlia, Midnapur.
8.	Orissa	Koraput, Mayurbhanj.
9.	Rajasthan	Nagaur, Bikaner, Jaipur.
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain, Dewas, Shajahanpur, Dhar, Sagar, Bilaspur, Raipur, Surguja, Guna, Narsinghpur.
11.	Karnataka	Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bellari, Shimoga, Bangalore, Mysore, Gulbarga.

Sl. No.	State	Districts
12.	Tamil Nadu	Salem, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tanjavour, Paddukottai, Kamrajar, Thirunaganar, North Kannada.

Lift Irrigation for Telengana Region

596. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to draw up a concrete plan to utilise Godavari water as a national project through an Act of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the assistance proposed for the people of Telengana region for lift irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Centre has launched Acelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the States for completion of those Irrigation Projects which are in advance stage of completion or mega projects which are beyond the resource capability of the States.

Unfit Drinking Water in Delhi

597. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindu, dated 27th January, 2000 under the caption "Delhi water unfit for drinking".